



Dear Islanders,

Our **26th Annual Pancake Breakfast** is at 9 am on Sunday 2nd, at the Fire Hall. The breakfast is hosted by the PIVFD and friends; it presents a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a leisurely meal with your family, neighbours and friends and it provides much needed funding for the beverages and snacks we consume after our weekly training sessions. Please show your support by joining us.

After months of research by our First Responders, I am pleased to announce that our brand new **TYPE IV Ambulance** has arrived.



It will be on display at the Breakfast for all to see and admire. This vehicle will deliver First Responders to the door of many island properties and will allow much easier and efficient patient transport. There are four types of ambulances - Type I, Type II, Type III and Type IV. Type I is based upon a heavy truck chassis and is used primarily for Advanced Life Support and rescue work. Type II is a van based ambulance with few modifications except for a raised roof and is used for basic life support and transfer of patients. Type III is a van chassis but with a custom-made rear compartment and has the same uses as Type I ambulances. **Type IV is for smaller ad hoc patient transfer** that use smaller utility vehicles in which passenger vehicles and trucks would have difficulty in traversing which is the case at many Piers Properties. A special thank you to our Fire Trustee Greg Miller and previous PIID Chair, Tony Kaul for making this happen. And to Lorne Andras for facilitating delivery.

WILDFIRES AND SMOKE are in the news daily. We are surrounded by wildfires and even though summer fires are expected and can be very beneficial, climate change and fire suppression has left us with a forest floor that is an extreme hazard, resulting in wildfires. We need to continue with our Fire Smarting activities. If we thin the forests, remove dead fuels and keep our meadows as large as possible with short, green grasses, we can mimic the benefits of what small forest fires used to do. Please, please take 15 minutes to watch this short [Ted Talk](#). Most fire departments can respond to one, or possibly two, house fires the same time. If more homes are burning, the ability of the home to survive the wildfire will likely rest on FireSmart principals alone. The PIVFD will attempt to prevent other homes that have not started to burn from igniting, but we will choose which homes are possible to save based on their likelihood of survival – again, FireSmart will play a part here.

Wildfires are less likely to ignite homes in a neighbourhood where structures are FireSmarted. What this reflects is that burning homes can ignite other homes. An intense crown fire at the front of the wildfire passes rapidly – on average within a minute. This is because the fire front consumes the fuel, and the remaining fuel can only support lower intensity ground fires. If a home has not ignited in that minute from radiant heat, if it has a non-flammable roof and a 10 meter clearance from fuels, there is a 85-90% chance the home will survive the wildfire. Those are pretty good odds for undertaking work that is relatively simple, inexpensive and manageable for most of us. And the forest can remain healthy despite our living there. If each of our homes could become as fire adapted as a Douglas Fir, wildfire response would be much different. Our Douglas firs are adapted to wildfire. They raise their flammable canopy well above ground fires – 50 meters or more. A healthy Douglas fir forest is well spaced, with few touching branches to move a crown fire from tree to tree. These features reduce crown fire ignition from convection (direct contact). Douglas Firs have thick bark that resists radiant heat from ground fires, and have few notches and dead vegetation to allow embers places to gain hold. They have fast growth that outpaces their competitors, which results in shade that prevents the formation of heavy undergrowth and reduces ground fire intensity. They drop lower branches, which results in their iconic look, but also removes ladder fuels that allow ground fires to climb into tree canopies. All of these factors result in lower intensity fires.

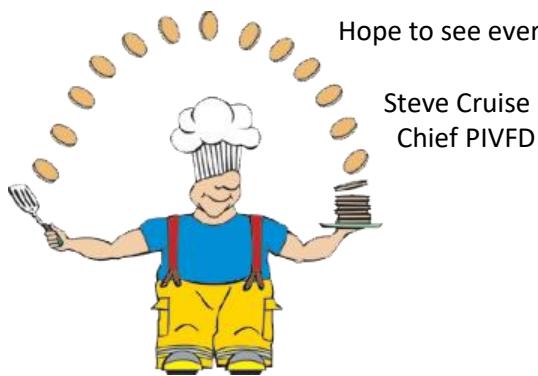


DONATIONS

Over the past 12 months, many Piers Islanders have donated monies to the PIVFD & PIVFD Firefighter Fund. These funds help with additional equipment and supplies to keep us strong and safe.

I would like to thank:

- Laura Bakan
- Bob and Anne Bell
- Jim and Helen Currie
- Mary Tucker
- Susanne Hughes and Jim Smith
- Tracey Landerkin
- Barbara Eckman
- The Currie Kids
- The Verbrugge Kids



Hope to see everyone on Sunday September 2nd!

Steve Cruise
Chief PIVFD